



Safer Communities Through Successful Youth

**ADJC RECIDIVISM
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
March 2011**

The Research and Development (R&D) Division annually updates and recalculates ADJC recidivism rates. Recidivism has been defined as return to custody with ADJC or the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC). The most recent cohort tracked by R&D included juveniles released from ADJC Safe Schools in 2009.

ADJC had a 12 month recidivism rate of 31.9% for juveniles released during 2009. This represents a 12% improvement over the previous agency rate, and the second consecutive decrease in recidivism. The vast majority of the recidivists were parole violators (PVs), and over two-thirds of the PVs were returned for new offenses rather than technical violations. In addition to PVs, the 31.9% recidivism rate includes 7.2% who were sentenced to ADC. This adult corrections recidivism rate is slightly better than the previous agency rate.

ADJC had a 36 month recidivism rate of 51.3% for juveniles released in 2007. This represents a 2.6% increase over the previous agency rate. Thirty-six months was chosen as the most appropriate ADJC recidivism follow-up period to use because it allows for a more comprehensive analysis of reoffending patterns. It has been shown that 80% of all ADJC recidivism occurs within 36 months. In addition to PVs, the 51.3% recidivism rate includes 26% who were sentenced to ADC. In other words, **almost three-quarters of ADJC releases were not sentenced to ADC within three years of their release.**

There is no national recidivism rate for juveniles. The comparison of juvenile recidivism rates is often difficult because of the differences in methodologies used, cohorts selected, follow-up time periods, and offenses measured as the recidivating act. "Comparisons among states and systems are invalid due to different definitions and data used in different studies¹."

For recidivism calculation purposes, each juvenile released from an ADJC Safe School is tracked for a specific period of time e.g., 36 months. They are recorded as recidivists if they return to custody for any reason including a technical violation of a parole condition or a new offense. If a juvenile has two recidivism events within the same time period s/he is placed in the most serious category. If a juvenile has a parole violation and is also sentenced to ADC on a different charge, for example, s/he is coded as returning to custody with ADC.

¹ Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, (October 2010), CJCA Yearbook 2010: A National Perspective of Juvenile Corrections. Also see Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, (November 2009), Defining and Measuring Recidivism.